

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 33-36.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A gateway appliance for sending data to and receiving data from a remote data storage location accessible over a communications link, said gateway appliance comprising:

a data processor;

a first communications port for communicating with a plurality of computers in a computer network;

a second communications port for communicating with a remote data storage facility; and

a non-volatile data storage device for storing locally, data to be communicated via said second communications port;

wherein said gateway appliance writes user data in a file system dependent format to said non-volatile data storage device;

creates emulation data which emulates a file system corresponding to a file system of a network of computer entities, ~~and;~~

~~converts data between a file system dependent format and~~ uses said user data and said emulation data to create a transmission data file for transmission, the

transmission file being in a file system independent format; and

transmits said transmission data file over the communications link for remote data storage at the remote data storage location.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The gateway appliance as claimed in claim 14, configured to make a scheduled transmission burst of changes to files since a last transmission burst, wherein only blocks inside files which have changed since the last transmission are transmitted in said scheduled transmission.

17-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said emulation data comprises data describing security attributes of said user data.

25. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein transmitting said transmission file comprises transmitting a plurality of modified portions of user files which have changed since a last transmission event.

26. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said transmitting occurs at predetermined intervals, and writing said user data comprises caching said user data in said local data storage device between file transmission events.

27. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said user data is cached in a file at said local data storage area in a file system independent format; and

periodically, a portion of said file which is changed compared to a previously transmitted version of said file is transmitted over said communications link for remote data storage.

28. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said transmission file comprises a block of a user data file representing incremental changes of said user data file, and said changes of said user data file are received in compressed format by the following steps:

decompressing said changed block of user data;

decompressing a received full said transmission file;

~~combining said decompressed changed block of user data;~~

~~decompressing said full transmission file;~~

updating said full transmission file by incorporating said changed block of user data to obtain an updated data file; and

recompressing said updated data file.

29. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said transmission file is compressed and encrypted prior to transmitting said transmission file over said communications link.

30. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said gateway appliance performs the further steps of:

maintaining said data file for transmission in said computer entity in which said user data is written to a local data storage area;

receiving an incremental change to said user data file;

modifying said user data file by incorporation of said incremental change prior to transmitting said transmission file over said communications link for remote data storage.

31. (Currently amended) The gateway appliance as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 14, wherein said gateway appliance performs the further steps of:

receiving from said remote data storage device:

a compressed encrypted package representing a user data file; and

one or more compressed encrypted packages representing updates to said user data file;

decompressing and decrypting said received package representing said user data file;

decompressing and decrypting each of said one or more packages representing updates of said user data file; and

combining said user data file with said updates of said user data file to obtain an updated user data file, reconstituted from said data packages received from said remote data storage device.

32. (Previously presented) The gateway appliance as claimed in claim 14, wherein said gateway appliance converts said data between a compressed format and an uncompressed format.

33. (New) A method of sending data from a gateway appliance to a remote data

storage location accessible over a communications link, said method comprising, via the gateway appliance:

writing user data in a file system dependent format to a non-volatile data storage device for storing locally at the gateway appliance;

creating emulation data which emulates a file system corresponding to a file system of a network of computer entities;

using said user data and said emulation data to create a transmission data file for transmission, the transmission file being in a file system independent format; and

transmitting said transmission file over the communications link for remote data storage at the remote data storage location.

34. (New) A gateway appliance configured to send data to and receive data from a remote data storage location that functions as part of a data repository service accessible over a communications link, said gateway appliance comprising:

a data processor;

a first communications port for communicating with a plurality of computers in a computer network;

a second communications port for communicating with a remote data storage facility;

a non-volatile data storage device for storing locally, data to be communicated via said second port;

wherein said gateway appliance writes user data in a file system dependent format

to said non-volatile data storage device, the user data originating from one of the plurality of computers in communication over the first communications port;

creates emulation data which emulates a file system corresponding to a file system of a network of computer entities;

uses said user data, said emulation data and identifier data that identifies said gateway appliance to create a transmission data file for transmission, the transmission file being in a file system independent format; and

transmits said transmission file over the communications link for remote data storage at the remote data storage location.

35. (New) A data storage device that functions as part of a data repository service accessible over a communications link to the gateway appliance of claim 34.

36. (New) A gateway appliance configured to send data to and receive data from a remote data storage location that functions as part of a data repository service accessible over a communications link, said gateway appliance comprising:

a data processor;

a first communications port for communicating with a plurality of computers in a computer network;

a second communications port for communicating with a remote data storage facility;

a non-volatile data storage device for storing locally, data to be communicated via said second port;

wherein said gateway appliance writes user data in a file system dependent format to said non-volatile data storage device, the user data originating from one of the plurality of computers in communication over the first communications port;

emulates a file system corresponding to a file system of a network of computer entities;

converts data between a file system dependent format and a file system independent format, and

transmits data in said file system independent format over the communications link for remote data storage at the remote data storage location,

wherein the gateway appliance makes available the user data written in file system dependent format on said non-volatile data storage device to the plurality of computers in communication with the gateway device over the first communications port.